

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 26, 2006, hereinafter "Office Action." Applicants are grateful for the examiner's indication that claims 2-10 are allowed and that claim 24 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Claims 11-16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 17-19 have been amended to correct their dependency.

Claims 20-23 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16. Support for this amendment is found in the application as filed, and in particular in original claims 16 and 24, and in the specification such as on page 11, lines 28-33 and on page 19, line 5 bridging to page 21, line 9. No new matter is introduced by this amendment of claim 24.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to correct their dependency.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-19, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kulkarni et al. in view of Verduijn et al. The above noted amendments of the claims overcome these rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

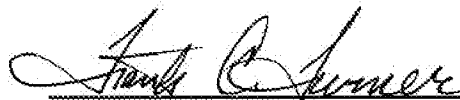
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U.S.S.N. 10/643,555
Amendment
April 26, 2007

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection are believed to have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank C. Turner", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank C. Turner
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,863

April 26, 2007
Chevron Corporation
6001 Bollinger Canyon Road, Ste T-3044
San Ramon, CA 94583-2324
(925) 842 0991 (voice)
(925) 842 2022 (fax)